

What is claimed is:

1. A method for simulating process flows in the graphics industry and for displaying the result calculated in the simulated process flows and/or intermediate results, comprising the steps of:
  - inputting and/or selecting at least one order data set;
  - inputting and/or selecting at least one process data set;
  - calculating links between the order data set and the process data set as a function of the order data set and the process data set;
  - creating a process flow from the calculated links;
  - calculating a result and/or intermediate results for the process flow using the order data set; and
  - outputting the result and/or intermediate results.
2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the calculating of the links between the order data set and the process data set includes an evaluation method, the evaluation method including making a query as to which process data set can be used to process an input or selected order data set of the at least one process data set so as to define positively queried process data sets; writing the positively queried process data sets to a resource table; establishing a ranking of the positively queried process data sets as a function of the process flow data and the order data set; selecting the process data set with a highest ranking; and assigning the process data set with the highest ranking to the selected order data set.
3. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the calculating of the links between order data set and process data set includes a further method, the further method including sequentially assigning one of the order data sets of the at least one order data sets to one or more of the process data sets; comparing the order data sets and assigned process data sets to each other; and in each case creating a best linkage as a function of the order data set.
4. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the order data set contains data needed for a printing job.

5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the process data set contains performance specifications and/or operating costs of a device of the graphics industry needed for the process flow.
6. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the device is a printing press or a prepress device.
7. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein prior to the start of the method, it is possible to access at least one process data set stored in a library 12.
8. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein prior to inputting and/or selecting steps, access to the at least one order data set stored in a library is provided.
9. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the process data sets are stored and can be selected and called up from a library on a display device with the aid of a graphical user interface.
10. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the order data sets can be selected and called up from a library on a display device with the aid of a graphical user interface.
11. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the process data sets contain dimensions associated with graphics industry devices and/or the dimensions associated with the devices are displayed on a display device.
12. A device for simulating process flows in the graphics industry and for displaying the result calculated in the simulated process flows and/or intermediate results on a display device, comprising:
  - at least one user interface for inputting and/or selecting at least one order data set;
  - at least one user interface for inputting and/or outputting at least one process data set;
  - at least one device suitable for calculating links between order data set and process data set as a function of the order data set and the process data set;

- at least one device suitable for creating a process flow from the calculated links;
- at least one device suitable for calculating the result and/or intermediate results for the process flow using the order data set; and
- at least one display or output device for displaying or outputting the results or intermediate results.